

A Hike Through An Old Industrial Heartland

This walk is short and features a park, a river promenade and a lake.



A modern sculpture by St Petri church



An old church bell of the St Petri church

The Adler Tower – originally a part of the medieval town wall.



Remains of the Adlerturm



In front of the Stadthaus subway station on the way to the Westfalenpark



Towards the hiking trail through the Westfalenpark



A pond by the entrance of the Westfalenpark



Works of art on exhibit in the Westfalenpark grounds



An old horse-drawn mill



A sculpture depicting a beer bottle top in honour of the breweries in Dortmund



An open air theatre in Westfalenpark, with the stage in the middle of the lake



The Emscherweg hiking trail through the old industrial heartland of Germany



A covered bridge along the hiking trail



A broken railway bridge



An industrial ruin seen from the Emscherweg



A disused warehouse



Hörder Castle in Phoenix East in Dortmund



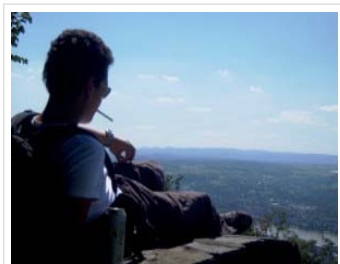
The Hörderbach

April 29th, 2012 | Tags: [Dortmund](#), [Emscherweg](#), [Germany](#), [hiking in Germany](#), [old industrial heartland of Germany](#), [pictures of our hike](#) | Category: [Hiking in Germany](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Germany For Hiking Holidays

Germany- perfect hiking holiday destination

1. **Want to go somewhere off the beaten trail?** For you, no city trip to London or Paris, no beach break on the Costa del something-or-the-other and no Mickey Mouses in Florida – but not wanting to be willfully eccentric (no Zimbabwe nor sightseeing journeys around North Korean power stations)? Guess what: Germany is for you.



2. Germany has a unique selling point: the opportunity she affords the intelligent traveler to weave as many of his requirements for a successful family vacation – nature, culture and some moderate physical activity (aka “something to do for the kids”). **Germany is the perfect country for a civilized outdoor experience – what I would call easy hiking.**

Germany may be some way down the European tourists’ list because it lacks the two elements that turn a country into a top hit: world-class cities and sun-drenched beaches.

On top of that, Germany’s nature lacks the awe-inspiring grandeur of the Grand Canyon and the Himalayas. (Even the Germany Alps are a trifle on the twee side: its highest mountain clocks in at just under 3000 metres while the Swiss have about 100 summits from where to look down on that.)

3. **What is easy hiking?** Easy hiking means adventure without pain or existential risk, a taste of nature that does not involve painting

yourself “red in tooth and claw”. What more, it means sleeping in hotels and hiking in civilized portions of no more than three or four days at a time instead of trying to wolf down an entire mountain range in a single bite. And it means taking the time to make a stopover wherever there is something interesting to see: a castle, a picturesque village. Sounds interesting? Then, read on.



4. The **German hiking trails – true wonders of organization, well marked** and the best ones have a clearly visible logo posted somewhere on a tree every quarter mile or so – and sub-divided into perfectly portioned, bite-sized stages of between ten and fifteen miles, leading you from one country town to another. German trails are the autobahns of hiking.

5. **German hiking trails would not be what as attractive as they are without the German villages.** There is always a village somewhere near-by, because the country is so densely populated. And it is far from being a nuisance, as some people may think. They are far from being “intruders” into your one-on-one tryst with nature. Villages are a network of shelter, support and even entertainment.



At the very least, and most basic, it means you don't need to carry your bed along with three days of provisions on your back because you know you can spend the night in an inn and get fresh provisions in the town markets the next day!

6. **Higher up the ladder, we have the German country towns.** German cities may look as though they had all been built at the same time by the same guys, following the same architectural plan, after some major catastrophe had erased nearly everything which dates further back than, say, the 1950s. Which is, of course, exactly what happened.



Many of Germany's small towns, on the other hand, are great, spared the devastation of WWII because they were not important enough to merit the expense of a large-scale air assault. And they are spared the devastation of modern tourism because they are not fancy enough to merit the expenses of a three-day break.

And you can find interesting and pretty towns virtually anywhere: every area of Germany has at least one or two. Treasures await!

7. And, of course, **Germany's nature is not half bad either.** There may be no Grand Canyon, but you will be surprised at the variety on offer: there is the sea and there are the Alps, there are lakes, dramatic rock formations, majestic rivers, peaceful valleys, forests, meadows. And you know what's best? That all of this is easily accessible, thanks to:



8. **Germany's very reliable public transport network.** OK, there may be exceptions. There are some remote regions, too, small towns and villages where one bus goes out early in the morning and one bus brings the commuters home at 6 pm with precious little in between (or after),

but these are really exceptions whereas in much of the European countryside, this is the norm.

In general, all stage posts of German hiking trails are accessible by public transport, so you can start and end your walk anywhere in the knowledge that the next major country town – hotels! cinemas! restaurants! – is only a short ride away. What more can you ask for?

9. Well, consider this: **there are no dangerous wildlife**. No wolves, no cougars, no mountain lions and definitely no bears. You don't think that's a plus? Then, talk to anyone of a slightly nervous disposition who has hiked in North America, particularly on the Western side of the continent, where *Ursus Horribilis*, I believe, is feeling up for a snack. Is that your tent he is heading for?



10. Finally, **Germany is in the “heart of Europe”** as they say. If you've had enough of Germany, you know that there is always somewhere else to go: Germany shares borders with nine countries, more than any other country in Europe, and all of them are either full or (in the case of Switzerland) associated members of the Schengen Agreement.

Germany may have no world-class cities of her own, but consider the fact that Paris, Amsterdam, Prague and even the cities of Northern Italy are just a few hours away. That certainly takes the sting out of that.

Written by **Michael Schuermann**

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